

Edward T. Cone - CRI CD 737

Most of us know Edward T. Cone through his writings: his two remarkable books The Composer's Voice and Musical Form and Performance, his many witty and deep articles (my favorite is "A View From Delft", also the title of a volume of his collected writings) as co-editor, with Benjamin Boretz, of Perspectives on Twentieth Century Music Theory and Perspectives on Schoenberg and Stravinsky, or his Norton critical edition of Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*. His encyclopedic knowledge of the repertoire is legion to the many dozens (hundreds?) of composers who were lucky enough to study with him at Princeton, Berkeley, or Cornell during his years there. His music, sad to say, has for the most part been unheard. A recent concert celebrating his eightieth birthday included a piano quintet from 1960 receiving its world premiere. While every composer of Prof. Cone's stature and reputation has a score or two which hasn't yet seen the light of day, it comes as no small surprise to learn that this recording -- four pieces written between 1954 and 1993 -- is his first ever.

Those who know him even slightly know that composing -- the act of as well as the thought about -- is infinitely more important to him than being a composer. Some of his students -- indeed some of his students' students -- have achieved more splash in a fraction of his lifetime.